to be conducted by the Samudayik Swasthya Anusandhan Foundation (Community Health Research Foundation) regarding the functioning of primary health centres;

(b) if so, the main findings of the study; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government with a view to improve the functioning of primary health centres and its attached sub-centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) In October, 1992 a study was entrusted to the Samudayik Swasthya Anusandhan Foundation (Foundation for Research in Community Health), Mumbai to cover five key topics based upon already published research in area of health care delivery.

(b) The main findings inter alia relate to inter-state differences in provision of human resources for health, preference of beneficiaries at different places, deficiencies in urban and rural areas etc.

(c) The proper functioning of Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres is a State responsibility. Under the Minimum Needs Programme, funds (State Sector) are earmarked for establishment and strengthening of Rural Health Infrastructure like Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Sub-centres. The Central Government has been assisting the States in drawing up technical guidelines and extending financial assistance for implementing numerous programmes which are run through the primary health infrastructure. These include programmes for training of health workers, child survival and safe motherhood and disease control programmes like Malaria, Leprosy, Blindness, T.B., AIDS etc.

Sea Wall

*257. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have considered the proposal from the Government of Kerala to provide World Bank Assistance for protection of Sea Walls in Kerala in order to prevent land erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No such proposal for seeking World Bank assistance for protection of Seawalls in Kerala in order to prevent land erosion has been received from Government of Kerala.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Conference of Education Ministers

*258. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the steps taken so far to implement the decisions arrived at in the Conference of State Education Ministers held in August, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : The Conference of State Education Ministers held on August 10, 1996 in New Delhi decided to constitute a Committee of State Education Ministers under the Chairmanship of Shri Muhi Ram Saikia, Minister of State for Education to work out the modalities of the proposal for making the right to free and compulsory elementary education a Fundamental Right and to identify resources required to achieve universalisation of elementary education. It also decided that three major Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz., Computer literacy and studies in schools, Vocationalisation of secondary education and Promotion of Yoga would be transferred to the State Sector.

The committee of State Education Ministers has so far held three meetings and is expected to submit its report by January, 1997. For transfer to Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States, the Planning Commission has been requested to work out entitlement of funds for the States.

Damage of National Highways/Bridges in A.P.

*259. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss incurred due to damage done to National Highways/Bridges during the recent cyclone in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to repair these roads bridges;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has made any request for the release of Central special fund to repair damaged National Highways/bridges;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?